

Entry of the foregoing claim amendments is respectfully requested.

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I hereby certify that this PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via EXPRESS MAIL in an envelope numbered EL852783340US and addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 17, 2001.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein the public data (8) includes a batch number.

4. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims], wherein the public data (8) includes date information.

5. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims], wherein the private data (12) includes an item number.

6. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims], wherein said public data (8) and said security code (10) is incorporated into the design printed onto the goods as reversed out characters, blends or tints.

9. (Amended) A method according to claim 7 [or claim 8], wherein the public data (8) includes date information.

10. (Amended) A method according to claim [any one of claims] 7 [to 9], wherein said public data (8) and said security code (10) is incorporated into the design printed onto the goods as reversed out characters, blends or tints.

13. (Amended) Goods according to claim 11 [or claim 12], wherein the public data (8) includes date information.

14. (Amended) Goods according to claim [any one of claims] 11 [to 13], wherein said public data (8) and said security code (10) is incorporated into the design printed onto the goods as reversed out characters, blends or tints.